

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph after the Title section on page 1, line 3:

This is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/796,819, filed March 1, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,596,273, issued July 22, 2003, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 6, line 3 with the following paragraph:

According to the invention, the biological fertilizer compositions comprise ~~poultry~~ swine manure and a plurality of yeast cell components. Each yeast cell component is a population of yeast cells which comprises a plurality of yeast cells that are capable of performing a desired function. The yeast cell components of the invention can provide the following six basic functions: (1) fixation of atmospheric nitrogen; (2) decomposition of phosphorus minerals or compounds, or maintaining a balance of phosphorus compounds; (3) decomposition of potassium minerals or compounds; (4) decomposition of complex or high molecular weight carbon materials or compounds; (5) overproduction of growth factors; and (6) overproduction of ATP. The yeast cell components of the invention can provide the following supplementary functions: (7) suppression of growth of pathogens, (8) degradation of undesirable chemicals, or (9) reducing the odor of organic materials.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 6, line 14 with the following paragraph:

In one embodiment, a biological fertilizer composition of the invention comprises (I) ~~poultry~~ swine manure; (II) at least one of the following yeast cell component: (a) a first yeast cell component comprising a first plurality of yeast cells that fix nitrogen; (b) a second yeast cell component comprising a second plurality of yeast cells that decompose phosphorus compounds; or (c) a third yeast cell component comprising a third plurality of yeast cells that decompose potassium compounds; and (III) at least one of the following: (d) a fourth yeast cell component comprising a fourth plurality of yeast cells that suppress the growth of pathogenic microorganisms; (e) a fifth yeast cell component comprising a fifth plurality of yeast cells that degrade antibiotics; or (f) a sixth yeast cell component comprising a sixth plurality of yeast cells that reduce the odor of the biological fertilizer composition. Thus, a biological fertilizer composition of the invention comprises at least two yeast cell components, one providing one of the three listed basic functions and one providing a supplementary function. In another embodiment, the biological fertilizer composition as

described above further comprises at least one of the following: (g) a seventh yeast cell component comprising a seventh plurality of yeast cells that convert complex carbon compounds to simple carbohydrates; (h) an eighth yeast cell component comprising an eighth plurality of yeast cells that overproduce growth factors; or (i) a ninth yeast cell component comprising a ninth plurality of yeast cells that overproduce adenosine triphosphate. In preferred embodiments, the biological fertilizer compositions of the invention comprises yeast cell components that provide all six basic functions, plus at least one of the supplementary functions. Thus, the preferred biological fertilizer compositions comprise seven, eight or nine different yeast cell components.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 13, line 32 with the following paragraph:

Some yeasts may perform one of the desired functions more efficiently than others. ~~The table~~ Table 16 below lists the species and accession numbers of various yeast strains and the preferred functions for which the respective strains are stimulated by the methods of the invention.